(iv) Where there is concentration of minority community population in local areas, the vacancy circular in local language may be distributed in those areas by suitable arrangements.

Instructions have been issued for monitoring the progress in recruitment of minorities in all Ministries/Departments, public sector enterprises, public sector banks and financial institutions. They are required to submit half-yearly reports beginning April, 2007.

Trade unions among Anganwadi Workers

†*288. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is aware of the fact that any workers, union or trade union is functional among Anganwadi Workers;

(b) if so, the number of such unions throughout the country along with the names of major trade unions among such unions; and

(c) whether any delegation of these unions has ever held a meeting with the Minister and submitted any memorandum to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) From the representations received from time to time, Government is aware that Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) have formed Associations/Federations. However, Government is not aware if any such Association of AWWs is registered under the Trade Union Act also. However, required information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Delegations of some such Associations/Federations have met the Minister in-charge/Officers of the Ministry and also submitted Memoranda.

Demands of Anganwadi Workers

*289. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether review committee has been set up as desired by the Prime Minister to look into the demands of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether there is any specific demand by them, and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have decided to meet their demands;

(d) if so, the number of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers expected to be benefited in the country;

(e) whether any financial assistance has been accorded therefor; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) A Review Committee was appointed by the Government to examine the current levels of Honorarium to Anganwadi Workers/Helpers and related issues.

(b) Major demands of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers as per representations received from time to time are as under:—

* Accord status of Grade 'C" & 'D' employees of Government with consequential benefits.
* Payment of salary at par with the Government employees.
* Linkage of remuneration with Consumer Price Index.
* A lump sum ex-gratia benefit on retirement of Rs. 1,00,000/- to AWWs and Rs. 50,000/- to AWHs.
* Extension of social security benefits like provident funds, pension etc. to all AWWs/AWHs.
* Enhancement of honorarium to Rs. 3,000/- for AWWs and Rs. 2,000/- to AWHs.

(c) to (f) The Review Committee has recently submitted its Report and the same is under consideration of the Government.

Illegal mining in Rajasthan

†*290. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether saint and the public are expressing their severe anger in protest against illegal mining taking place in the holy mountains situated

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.